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the base of the perpendicular cliffs. On June 24, 1914, I found several specimens of the sea going bug *Halobates micans* Esch. (*wuellerstorffi* Frauenfeld) swimming about among these masses of clay, but was more surprised to find the beetles *Dineutes hornii* Roberts and *Gyrinus* sp. The water is salt enough to be the home of many sea shells and crabs, so the beetles were not expected.

At the base of the cliffs, where there is a narrow beach of several feet, *Bembidium laevigatum* Say was found in some numbers, and in one place where there is a short sandy beach between two of the bluffs, Mr. Ernest Shoemaker and I collected the tiger beetles *Cicindela puritana*, *C. marginata*, *C. hirticollis*, *C. repanda*, and on the extreme upbeach *C. punctulata*. The specimens of *hirticollis* are remarkable on account of their broad white markings, as broad as in many specimens of *generosa*. On the moist ground of the more gentle sloping sides of some of the banks were grouse-locusts, *Paratettix cucullatus* Burm. and *Tettigidea lateralis* Say; also a number of toad-bugs, *Gelastocoris oculatus* Fabr. A trip to Chesapeake Beach, made in June, 1911, was commented upon in this Journal for March, 1912.—Wm. T. Davis.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held February 16, 1915, at 8:15 P.M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Dr. Raymond C. Osburn in the chair, with 16 members, and two visitors present.

The curator reported the addition of a paratype of *Papaipema humuli* to the local collection, by gift of Mr. Henry Bird.

Mr. Davis recommended the publication by the society of a Check List of Hemiptera, written by E. P. Van Duzee, and presented for publication by him through Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson. Mr. Davis offered to advance the cost of the printing, the amount to be repaid without interest as funds accrued from the sales until the entire amount advanced had been repaid; the proceeds of sales thereafter to belong to the society.

Mr. Barber, Mr. Schaeffer, Dr. Lutz and Dr. Osburn spoke in favor of the project and on motion by Dr. Lutz, the offer of Mr. Davis was accepted and the work accepted for publication.

Mr. Dow, under the title of "The Land of the Rose Apple Tree," spoke of the entomological references in the sacred writings of India, comparing them with those of other countries, and summarized all he had been able to trace up to the time of Aristotle as one hundred and twelve from the Greek, ten from the Hebrew, four from the Chinese, eight from the Zend, forty from the Sanscrit, but with the probability of the latter being greatly increased as further search became possible, judging by a passage he had found in which familiar names for several hundred kinds of trees were given. In the Sanscrit as elsewhere the early references are to white ants, wood-boring larvæ, flies, crickets, mosquitoes, wasps and other insects liable, from their usefulness to man or their painful attacks upon him, to attract attention. In many instances, the interpretation of the vague references required some knowledge of entomology, as well as imagination. "The Insect Catalogue of Earlier Greece" closed Mr. Dow's remarks.

Mr. Wintersteiner's paper, "the Genus *Helophorus*," was read, in his absence, by the secretary, and will later be published in full.

Mr. Davis read a paper on "Nest of *Formica schaufussi*," which will be printed in Miscellaneous Notes.

MEETING OF MARCH 2, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held March 2, 1915, at 8:15 P.M., at Heim's Restaurant, President Dr. Raymond C. Osburn in the chair, with twenty members, and four visitors present.

The treasurer exhibited the plates and photographs of Cicada for the forthcoming JOURNAL, which he stated would not be at the cost of the society, but his own.

Mr. Dow, for the Field Committee, reported tentative plans for an outing on Pussy Willow Sunday at Beaver Meadow, five miles north of Coytesville, N. J., where, between the hemlock woods the cascades and the meadows on the site of the old beaver pond, he believed good and varied collecting would be found.

Dr. Lutz recalled that the place selected was the scene of his first outing with the society, six years ago, and endorsed Mr. Dow's selection.

Mr. Mutchler exhibited a number of West Indian beetles from the museum collections, and spoke of the progress being rapidly made in accumulating a comprehensive named collection. He commented particularly on *Ulosoma tricornis* of the West Indian List, apparently cited in error for *U. biimpressa*, since all the specimens examined agreed better with the description of the latter in respect of cephalic horns and pronotal punctuation.

Mr. Leng commented on the resemblance between the Floridian *Apenes opaca* and the West Indian and Bahaman specimens of *Apenes* (or *Cymindis*) *parallela*.

Mr. Schaeffer exhibited specimens of a number of species of Coleoptera new to the United States, in reference to which he has a paper now in process of publication, and explained the sources from which they had been obtained

and the characters by which they could be recognized. It was interesting to note that the first genus mentioned, *Trechus*, was also the subject of Mr. Schaeffer's first entomological paper.

Mr. Leng read a paper on "Recent Publications in Scolytidæ" in which the important papers of the past eight years, especially those by Hagedorn, Nusslin, Reitter, Swaine and Hopkins were reviewed, and a general commentary on the habits of the family included.

In the discussion that followed, Messrs. Dickerson and deVyver spoke particularly of the three species of horticultural interest, *Scolytus rugulosus* and *quadrispinosus* and *Phlaeotribus liminaris*, and experiment station literature thereon, particularly the Ohio Bulletin by Gossard.

Mr. Davis spoke of the *Cicindela* highway on the road between Ridgeway and Whitesville, N. J., where in one day, August 22, 1912, he had taken eight species, *generosa*, *purpurea*, *tranquebarica*, *obscura*, *rugifrons*, *consentanea*, *rufiventris*, *punctulata* and two more, *repanda* and *unipunctata*, later, nearby, as a preliminary to the exhibition of five species found on Chesapeake Beach, Md., with photographs of the locality and his companion; the latter in a costume adapted to the capture of the seagoing bugs that frequented the pools formed between the pieces of clay that fell from the cliffs above.

A complete account of the insects thus found swimming in salt water, as well as the *Cicindelidæ* of this beach will be published elsewhere.

Mr. J. R. de la Torre Bueno, present as a visitor, remarked that the specimens shown were the first winged *Holobates* he had seen.

Mr. Sherman exhibited *Miscodera arctica* from Lake Superior and *M. insignis* and *Zacotus matthewsi* received from Dr. Van Dyke.

Mr. Nicolay called attention to *Mordellistena ambusta* as an addition to the local list, based on specimen from Bronxville, N. Y., caught and identified by Mr. Woodruff.

Mr. Dow spoke of correspondence with various collectors, R. E. Ludwig of St. Petersburg, Fla., Fordyce Grinnell of Los Angeles, Calif., famous for his success in interesting boys in natural history, Warren Knaus of McPherson, Kan., Ralph Hopping, H. C. Fall, Charles Dury and others, particularly in connection with Mr. Dury's discovery of the number of small Coleoptera that could be caught under a pile of cut grass, kept moist, and with attractive bait, watermelon rind, etc., added. He said that he hoped to secure valuable distribution data, as well as specimens, by having this peculiar environment repeated at widely separated places.

MEETING OF MARCH 16, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held March 16, 1915, at 8:15 P.M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Dr. Raymond C. Osburn in the chair, with 12 members, and three visitors, Dr. J. M. Aldrich, of Illinois, and Miss Cain and Miss Clarke, of Columbia University, present.

Dr. Aldrich spoke on "Western Salt Lakes and their Insect Inhabitants."

After explaining the difference between the salt lakes, containing principally sodium chloride, and the alkaline lakes, containing carbonates as well, and the great difference between the percentage of solid matter, ranging from one per cent. or less and accompanied by presence of fish, up to twenty-six per cent., Dr. Aldrich proceeded to show by lantern slides the scenery of the desert regions in which these salt lakes in Utah, Nevada and California are situated, and the peculiar flies, whose larvæ live in their waters. The slides exhibited especially the immense numbers of pupa cases drifted on the shores of the lakes, and the differences between the pupæ and the larvæ of the different species. The conditions under which the pupæ served the Piute Indians for food in former times and the methods of preparation were explained, and vials containing the "Cootsaapie," to use the Indian name, were exhibited. The dried larvæ of a large moth, also used for food, were included in the exhibit.

In the discussion that followed, Dr. Aldrich referred to the other insects of the salt lakes, particularly Cicindelidæ, and discussed with Dr. Osburn the relation between the oceanic and salt lake conditions for fish.

Mr. Shoemaker and Mr. Davis spoke of "Adirondack Insects," describing their visit to Whiteface Mountains, N. Y., on July 6, when they found insects, during the midday hours, in extraordinary numbers on the bare rocks at the summit. During the nine days they stayed at Wilmington, six miles from the summit, Mr. Shoemaker climbed the trail six times and Mr. Davis five times, and on one occasion they remained over night. The butterfly *Colias interior* Scudder was present in some numbers at the higher altitudes, and on warm days it was found at the top of the mountain. Several females were collected, but only one of them of the white variety. A number of rare species were included in the catch among the Coleoptera, as well as a large number of species and individuals, for example, 36 species of Cerambycidæ, 16 species of Coccinellidæ, etc. Among the Cerambycidæ were two species of *Anthophilax*, and among the Coccinellidæ an extraordinary series of *Harmonia 14-guttata*, exhibiting striking variations in maculation. In addition to collecting on the summit and along the trail, great attention was paid to the bait bottles, resulting in the capture of one *Nomaretus*. Mr. Davis commented particularly on the Silphidæ found on a dead porcupine, his remarks being printed in Miscellaneous Notes, and on the distribution of the seven species of Cicindelidæ taken, of which *repanda* occurred on the road and on the river banks, *12-guttata* on the river banks, *tranquebarica* from the valley to the summit of the mountain; *purpurea*, a single specimen, and *generosa* were found along the lower parts of the trail, the latter in but one place, while *6-guttata* extended on good days nearly to the summit, and *longilabris*, the most northern in geographic distribution, was not seen until part of the distance was climbed and then continued to the summit. The variation from our local types was also noticeable, one *6-guttata* having a middle band, all the *tranquebarica* being more or less coppery, and the solitary *purpurea* quite greenish in coloration.

Mr. Davis closed his remarks with an exhibition of photographs of the mountain and a humerous reference to a Bovalapus.

Mr. Dickerson presented a list of Geometridæ captured at Fourth Lake in the Adirondacks a few years ago, and identified for him by the late John A. Grossbeck, which list is attached, and commented on the activity of one of the species *A. vestaliata*.

MEETING OF APRIL 6, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held April 6, 1915, at 8:15 P.M., in the American Museum of Natural History, Vice-President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with fourteen members and two visitors, André Avinoff, Fellow of the Entomological Society of London and member of the Russian Entomological Society, and Dr. Wm. A. Riley, of Cornell University, present.

The curator reported a donation of seven specimens of Noctuidæ from Mr. Shoemaker.

Mr. Dow, for the Field Committee, gave the details of an outing planned for April 11 to Central Park, L. I., and of one planned for May 31 to Beaver Swamp.

Dr. Lutz having withdrawn in favor of Mr. Avinoff, that gentleman spoke on the distribution of butterflies in Central Asia, particularly as exhibited during his own travels in Cashmere, Thibet and Turkestan. The speaker referred to the difficulty of tracing the southern frontier of the Palæarctic region in Central Asia, especially in its eastern portion, where it meets the Chinese-Indo-Malayan region in an irregular line, at varying elevations in the mountains.

Numerous illustrations, drawn from his experiences in collecting butterflies, were given of the height at which the palæarctic species were found in Cashmere, where everything above 6,000 ft. is palæarctic, in Nepaul at 9,000 ft., and in the Himalayas at 14,000 ft. Mr. Avinoff said he had found butterflies numerous at 18,600 ft. in the Himalayas, in August, when at that elevation there was no snow; and specimens of *Parnassius* were exhibited. Continuing he spoke of the Thibetan fauna as exhibited in the large collections made for Charles Oberthür by a Catholic missionary, all evidently taken at comparatively low levels, being Indo-Malayan in character; the level at which the palæarctic species would be found in Thibet is not definitely known, but estimated at 12,000 feet.

A comparison of the European fauna, where the mountains of the Pyrenees, Alps and Carpathians make a more definite boundary for the palæarctic (though elevated portions of northern Africa must be included), with the Asiatic was made, and the great similarity between Russia in Europe and in Asia was pointed out, the Ural Mountains forming no barrier of consequence; a line drawn north from Lake Baikal being a vague but more correct boundary between eastern and western forms. The Ethiopian region, the Mediterranean region, reaching eastward to the Crimea and plains of Turkestan and even to Quetta in Hindostan, and the Boreal region bordering the Arctic Ocean and exhibiting American relationships in northeastern Asia were also mentioned, as well as the wonderful variety of butterflies in the mountains of Turkestan,

where so many strains meet that many local forms, confined to small areas, result. Mr. Avinoff closed by describing the tortuous line by which the Thibetan faunal province is surrounded by palæarctic and other regions, and the variety of forms collectable in a single day on its mountainous border, by working at different elevations.

His remarks were discussed by Dr. Lutz, who pointed out the different opinion expressed by Schimper in regard to a division of the Siberian forest region, and by Mr. Angell in regard to *Coptolabrus* and other Carabid genera.

Dr. Riley being called on by the chairman, spoke briefly of the medical phases of entomology.

Dr. Lutz delivered his paper on distribution of West Indian spiders, abridged on account of the late hour, calling attention to the museum collection identified by Nathan Banks and the great additions to the Petrunkevitch catalogue resulting from museum expeditions. Notwithstanding the contrary opinion derived from study of other groups, he said he could find in the spiders no definitely distinct West Indian fauna, nothing but an admixture of continental forms, resulting from movements of species between the islands themselves and between them and the mainland. Peculiar forms, as far as they exist, are all of ancient types, and are evidently relics of past times, which are being replaced by more recent forms, principally from the north, though the extreme southerly islands naturally show more South American affinities, from their geographical proximity.

In the discussion that followed with Messrs. Avinoff and Schaeffer, Dr. Lutz showed how unnecessary theoretical land bridges were, and even ridiculous, for, if all the known cases of relic distribution in distant regions, like Madagascar and South America, were sought to be thus explained, the ocean would be filled with bridges; and how ample the millions of years in Tertiary time for the movements he advanced as explaining the distribution from the mainland.

Mr. Davis exhibited the specimens on which he based his latest supplement to the list of Macrolepidoptera of Staten Island, which he stated had now reached 673 species, of which 85 were butterflies, calling attention particularly to an intermediate specimen of *Papilio* which was neither *turnus* nor *glaucus*, though somewhat nearer to the latter; and to the spring form of *Attacus luna*.

Referring again to the insects caught in the Adirondacks while with Mr. Shoemaker, he also read a letter from Dr. J. M. Aldrich, in which the botflies he caught were stated to be probably the first adults of *Cephenomyia* ever caught in the western hemisphere.

This genus is known in the Old World to live as larvæ under the skin of deer. Mr. Davis said his specimens were caught in open spots among evergreens, loafing lazily on vegetation.